9:Megas I,B-5,4 (no date) 1951 EH1 Greece
Bulgaria EE1

342 years ago, was giving shelter to a 40 members' family and which [592] was especially built for this purpose (Plate XIII 6) It is an evolution of the basic type of a house with two spaces (hyza and odaja). The [513] cellars on the one side of the hyza are a subdivision of the third compartment into smaller spaces, and are used by the various couples of the family only to sleep in. The hyza remains the central appartment and it includes the hearth, measuring 2 m. x 2 m. where the [252] bread is also baked in a special pot (srepnia, podnitsa). The cellars and the oda open to a hyza without any communication between them. The external architecture of this house presents the character-

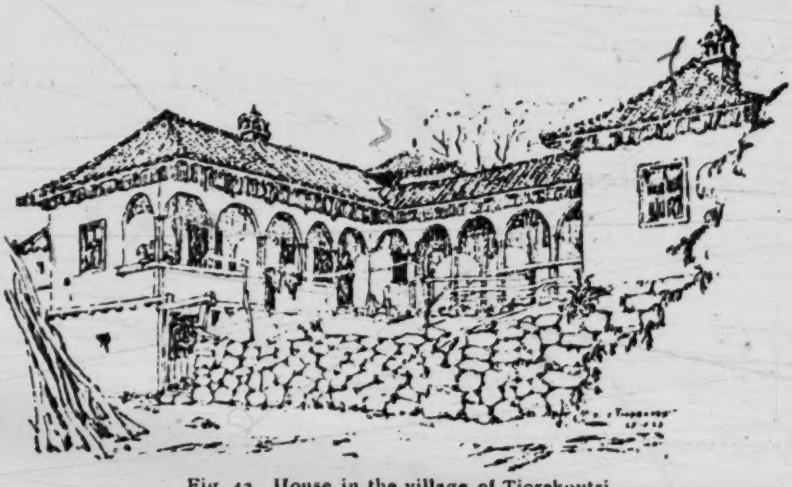

Fig. 42 House in the village of Tiorekovtsi
(Zlatev, Bălg kăsta fig. 77)

istic lack of a prostoon, which, according to Zlatev (p. 91) is the permanent element of the Bulgarian house. The house (Zlatev fig. 78) of the village of Tiorekovtsi, built in 1870, presents the same composition, but with a different arrangement of spaces (See Plate XIII 7).

Another house of this latter village is built according to the second method (Zlatev, Fig. 76 and 77) presenting an apparent architectural synthesis: «two independent bipartite houses, extending [351] parallel to each other are united on one side by a covered portico thus forming a sort of central courtyard, surrounded on two sides by porticoes which, according to Zlatev, remind us of monasteries and

[The Bulgarian House of the Mountains]

In these two-storey houses as well, we distinguish in the upper-floor the two basic spaces just as in the Bulgarian house of the plains, namely the kăsta and the oda or soba with the so-called tsardak (or islak or soundourma) that is the open portico, in front of them. The lower storey is used, just as in the Greek houses, for the stabling of cattle and the storing of fruits, but very often it also includes a room with a hearth for the residence of the family during the winter. This is also called «kăsta» i.e. house, or even better, «lower house» and «small house» in contrast to the «upper», or «big house» that is the main room of the upper floor, where the family lives in the summer months.

The second room, called soba, is also used as sleeping quarter for the family, and more seldom for the storing of food and other articles. For this last purpose, another additional space is also used and is called «killer»; the upper floor is thus divided into three spaces (Plate XV).

This distribution is shown by the house of Sredna Gora (Messon Oros) which is very important as it exercised an influence upon the houses of Balkan, according to Zlatev (1). (See Fig. 43, 44 and Plate XV 1-2).

The portico in the upper floor is used, just as in the Greek houses, for the drying of fruit and as a living room of the family during the summer months. Parts of it are usually divided by light wooden or brick partitions, forming spaces called «ambar» (stores) for cereals, or even small rooms called «odaja» and «soba».

Finally, in some more composite forms of houses there is a space between the two main rooms, used as an anti-room, having the floor higher by 0.15-0.20 m. and called prust (Greek «μεσοῦστι»); and also some other smaller spaces, divided off and used as hiding-places or cellars. In the more developed forms, such as in the houses of the village

---

towns, even in their palaces. Slavs never used stone construction until the 10th cent., except for their Southern tribes who, having arrived in the Balkan peninsula and the Italian boundaries on the 6th cent., could see for themselves the models of Byzantine and Roman architecture». Stone construction was first used in the building of churches and of palaces by experts specially invited from abroad. Cf. **J. Cvijic'**, op. cit. pp. 228, 230, 241, **G. Megas**, Θρακ. Οἰκήσεις, p. 48.

1) According to **Cvijic**, op. cit. p. 250, «the house of Srendnja Gora is the one that corresponds better to the desires of all Bulgarian farmers, because it has spread all over the country after the Turkish occupation».

attached plan of such a house of the village of Dolna Mitropolia in the Plevna District of the year 1895 (fig. 50). 342

This consists of two underground galleries. The first and main gallery has, after the entrance, three spaces, meant for the housing of the family and of the cattle. The first is the anteroom (prust), the second is the stable (zemnik) and the third is the room (breg). The second gallery which is perpendicular to the first, comprises the house (kăsta) with the hearth and the cellar (called zadnik = back side). [23·1]

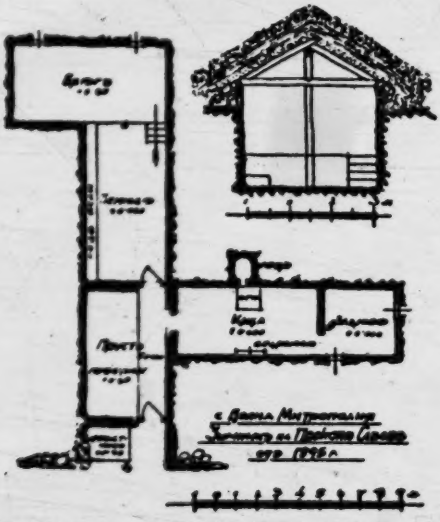

Fig. 50 Village Dolna Mitropolia. Trogle of Prokopi Savoff, 1895
(Zlatev, Bălg. Kăsta fig. 98)

The entrance, protected by the roof which is protruding, has, as a rule, an earthen plat-form (prastnik) where the inhabitants sit, or even sleep, in summer. [513]

After a slight slope of the ground, one goes through the entrance into the prust, which plays the role of an ante-room and which, in winter protects the inner spaces from the influence of the atmosphere and in summer, it is used for the habitation of the family, having for this purpose, an earthen sofa. Two doors open from the «prust» to the two main spaces of the house, the zemnik and the kăsta.

The zemnik is never less than 7 m. long and has mangers for the cattle on one side. After this room, one goes to the breg, that [231] [513] [354]

77

342 has a floor higher by 0.80—0.90 than the rest, and is used as a
513 bedroom for the members of the family. No wall separates these two
354 spaces from each other, neither is there any provision for heating.

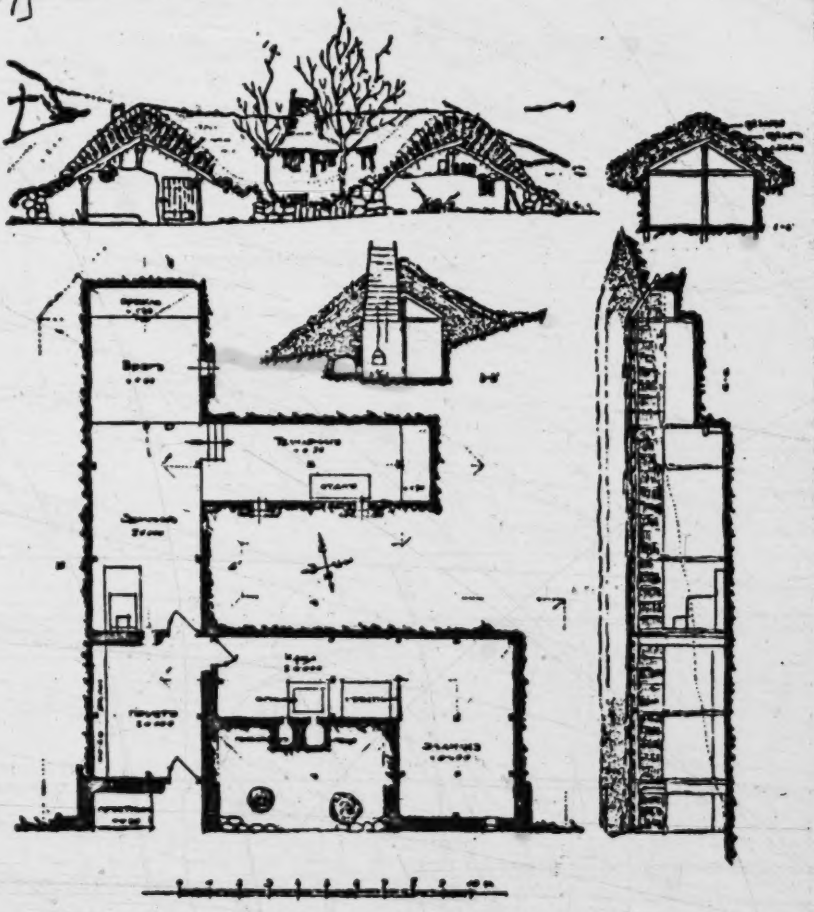

Fig. 51 Trogle of Pentso Tsoloff in the village Dolna Mitropolia, 1876
(Zlatev, Bălg. kăšte, fig. 97)

354 Instead of heating, the inhabitants keep warm by the heat omitted by
231 the cattle in the zemnik. For this reason, the male and female buffalo

113
● 513

Yugoslavia EF1
Slovenes EF7
Albania EG1
Rumania ED1
Bulgaria EE1 ●

/For general information on sleeping quarters in the house, see scattered references in 17: Thurnher, EF6 Serbs file, category 116./